

COVID-19 Vaccines

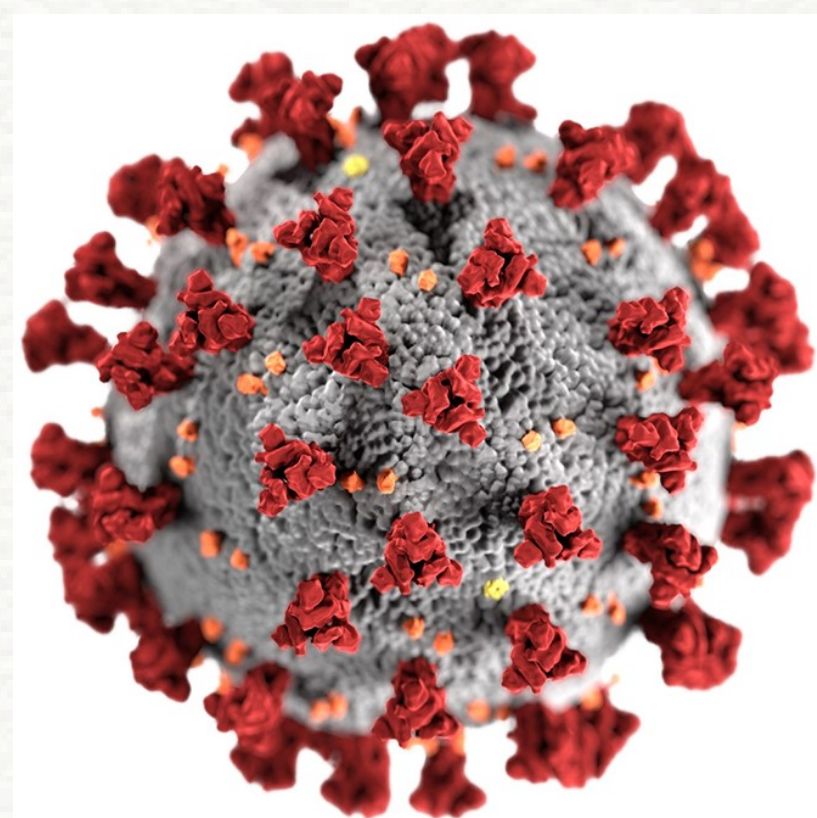
Questions on Fertility--Separating Fact from Fiction

How do vaccines work?

Although there are different types of vaccines, they all have the same purpose--to help our bodies fight against germs without getting sick from the disease.

What are the different COVID-19 vaccines?

Through different processes, the COVID-19 messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines (Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna) and the viral vector vaccine [Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (J&J)] tell our cells to make a harmless piece of the “spike protein.” The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. Our body can tell that this protein doesn’t belong and begins making antibodies (proteins that help your body fight the germ). If you ever come across the COVID-19 virus in the future, your body can fight it.



Will COVID-19 vaccines change my DNA?

No. None of the COVID-19 vaccines interact or change our DNA (genetic material).

Is getting sick with COVID-19 more dangerous for pregnant people than those who are not-pregnant?

Pregnant people are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19. There may also be an increased risk for a preterm birth or stillbirth.

Will the COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility?

There is NO evidence suggesting that fertility problems are a side effect of ANY COVID-19 vaccine. People who are trying to become pregnant now or who plan to try in the future may receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them.

Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

Those who are pregnant and/or breastfeeding who are part of a group recommended to receive the COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., healthcare worker, those in group settings such as housing or correctional facilities, those with certain medical conditions, etc.), may choose to be vaccinated. There are limited data on the COVID-19 vaccine and its affect on pregnancy, but experts believe it does not pose a risk. Also, there are no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in people who are breastfeeding, but COVID-19 vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant. Talk to your healthcare provider to decide what is best for you and your baby.

For More Information:

<https://covid19.nj.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/vaccines/recommendations/pregnancy.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety.html>

